

**Annual General  
Meeting 2009  
Fellowship of Evangelistic  
Ministries**

By kind invitation our AGM will be held in

Hunslet Nazarene Church  
Grove Road, Hunslet, LS10 3BN

**9th May 2009**

AGM: 1:30 - 2.30 pm

Refreshments provided

Report and Celebration Meeting: 4:00 pm

All members of the Fellowship of  
Evangelistic Ministries are invited to the  
AGM. Why not bring a friend so that they can  
be introduced to the work and ministry of  
FEM!

Saving faith is an immediate relation to Christ,  
accepting, receiving, resting upon Him alone, for  
justification, sanctification, and eternal life by virtue  
of God's grace.

Charles Spurgeon

# Sounding the Trumpet

January - March 2009



# Sounding the Trumpet

*A Magazine for Preachers by Preachers*

Is Published by The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries  
(Formerly The Evangelical Preachers Association, Est. 1896)

**T**his is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe to this magazine please locate the subscription form on one of the pages in this magazine.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

As a magazine by preachers for preachers, our aim is to provide Biblically sound articles and outlines. No doubt, as you read books and magazines, you come across material that would suit *Sounding the Trumpet*.

# Fire on the Altar

"And the fire upon the altar shall be kept burning thereon; it shall not go out; and the priest shall burn wood upon it every morning." (Lev. vi. 12.).

**A**ll acknowledge that the fire upon the altar is the type of the Holy Spirit. The sacrifice upon the altar of burnt offering, and the sweet-smelling spices upon the altar of incense, all were to be consumed by the fire and carried up to Heaven in smoke. So only may the sacrifice whereby I offer myself up to God every morning, and the incense of my prayers be well pleasing unto God, when they are borne by the Holy Spirit to Heaven. Then it is 'an acceptable sacrifice,' being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

And therefore the fire upon the Altar must always be kept burning. And the appointed time is the morning; the priest shall burn wood upon it every morning. The Christian who neglects this duty in the morning will soon discover that he cannot find time for it in the course of the day. Let us learn to do this in the morning. The wood needful to keep the fire of the Spirit burning is God's Word. Let us see to it that these two things are done every morning: first, we must gather and pile the wood; secondly, we must wait for the fire of the Spirit to set it alight. Through faith and a truthful waiting upon God, we must have the inward assurance that the Holy Spirit, the fire of God, is burning within us. Then our sacrifice of ourselves and our prayers will be a sweet savour, acceptable to God in Christ.

**Andrew Murray**

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Once in seven years I burn all my sermons; for it is a shame, if I cannot write better sermons now than I did seven years ago.

**John Wesley**

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seeking whom he may devour.”

C. Over Come All The Obstacles – 1 Samuel 17:47 “And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD’S, and he will give you into our hands.”

D. Don’t Give Up

## **II. Prepare For The Victory**

A. Faith – 1 John 5:4 “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

B. Trust – Psalms 7:1 “O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:

C. Obedience – Joshua 5:7 “And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them by the way. 8 And it came to pass, when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole. 9 And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you.”

## **III. Prepare For Eternity**

A. The Greatest Preparation!

B. Make Your Reservations Today!

C. Don’t Delay!

**Anon**

### **Web Sites**

[www.femonline.co.uk](http://www.femonline.co.uk)  
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[www.ontherightway.co.uk](http://www.ontherightway.co.uk)  
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## **Contents**

<b>Spiritual Soundness</b> by Gary J. Hall	3
<b>Useful Quotes</b>	6
<b>Subscription Form</b>	6
<b>The Big Issue</b> by Rev. Frank Rowley	9
<b>God is an Eyewitness</b> by Will Pounds	11
<b>Be Prepared</b> Sermon Outline	13
<b>Fire on the Altar</b> by Andrew Murray	15
<b>Annual General Meeting 2009</b>	16

If any of you should ask me for an epitome of the Christian religion, I should say that it is in one word - prayer. Live and die without prayer, and you will pray long enough when you get to hell.

Charles Spurgeon

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# Spiritual Soundness

“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are alway liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith” (Titus 1:9-13).

## Introduction

**T**he world fills our ears with all kinds of sounds, many of which we try to drown out. As Christians we need to listen to a very important sound, that is, the voice of the Holy Spirit, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Revelation 2:7). This reveals that we must have our spiritual ears attuned to sounds of Heaven. The only way that we can hear what God is saying to us is if we are sound (pure and undefiled) in two vital areas.

## Sound doctrine

This is the very thing that few immerse themselves in today, and because of the lack of sound doctrine they fall for every lie that comes along. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears” (2 Timothy 4:3). It is only through sound teaching that we can determine if a preacher and his words are true or false. No wonder then many are looking for a gimmicky and entertaining church rather than one built upon the solid rock of God’s

ence? He has made a perfect provision to cover all my sins. I am secure in His all-knowing presence and powerful hands.

*Selah!*  
**Wil Pounds**

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## Be Prepared

Text: Joshua 1:8,9 5:2 – 5.

## Introduction

One of the greatest challenges in life is to be prepared for whatever comes our way. In the event of a hurricane we can prepare. In the event of natural disaster we can be prepared.

Webster definition: to make ready beforehand for some purpose, use, or activity to work out the details of: plan in advance

## I. Prepare For The Battle

A. The Bible Is For Today - Training

1. Our Foundation
2. Our Strength
3. Our Source of Success

B. Know The Enemy - Special Intelligence

1. Spiritual Battle – Eph. 6:12 “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”
2. Through the Word – Sword of the Spirit
3. Be Aware – 1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about,

It is a comfort to know that I can never escape Him. Even if I were so foolish to want to, I could never flee from His presence or His knowledge of my circumstances.

"If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,' Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You" (Psalm 139:8-12).

Think about it. There is no place to flee from His eyes. But why should I ever want to flee His presence? Knowing that He is aware of my thoughts and actions gives encouragement to keep my mind and heart pure.

"But you are not perfect Wil Pounds." No, I am not sinless in thought or deed. But knowing that He knows when I sin drives me to the cross, and the fact that if the blood of Jesus does not wash me of all my sins, I can never be saved and glorified.

The fact that He knows when I sin is a humbling truth; however, it is also the greatest incentive to go to Him as David did and confess my sins. "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah" (Psalm 32:5).

The apostle John wrote, "And the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7b). The original language says, the blood of Jesus "continues to cleanse," keeps on cleansing constantly. All my sins, every sin, are under His cleansing blood. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us" (1 John 1:9-10).

Yes, He is an eyewitness, so why should I fear His pres-

word. "Let my heart be sound in thy statutes" (Psalm 119:8). Sound doctrine must include the concept of judgement. Any preacher, teacher or evangelist that refuses to allow his words to pass through the test of Scripture, or suggests that no-one ought to question his teaching, has immediately made himself a false prophet. Such men have placed themselves and their reputation above God's word. A true believer must study and search the Scriptures to make sure that what is being taught lines up with the truth. In other words, we must sound it out. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39). We need to be Bereans, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:10). It is not wrong to judge spiritual matters, "But he that is spiritual judgeth all things" (1 Corinthians 2:15) ... "Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 1:13).

### **Sound faith**

Sound faith is determined and is dependent upon what we believe. Sound faith reveals what we have been taught. If our doctrines are skewed then our faith rather than being built upon the rock is tottering on sinking sand. In the majority of cases where a person does not rely upon the Scriptures, we will find him trusting in good works and personal merits. It is not Christ that saves him, but his own goodness and righteousness. He cannot understand why a sinner needs to be born again and trust in Christ alone for salvation. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Without Christ, whatever faith he might claim to have, he is lost. There is a tendency today, both amongst Christians and the lost, to believe everything that is "contrary to sound

doctrine” (1 Timothy 1:10). The measuring stick for sound faith is sound doctrine, and you cannot have the one without the other. Those who are sound in doctrine and faith must sharply rebuke those who put their trust in falsehood. They must be stopped in their tracks with the weapon of sound doctrine and the boldness of sound faith. We have seen several ministers falling from grace over the years, Jim Bakker and Todd Bentley to name a few, but each one arrived in that position through false doctrine. They were doctrinally unsound long before they became morally unsound. “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34).

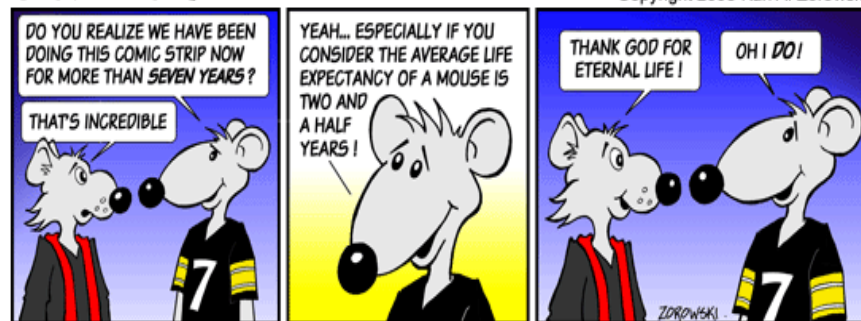
### Conclusion

We need a revival of sound doctrine and sound faith at this time, and less of the hypocrisy and falsehood that promotes itself as Biblical Christianity. “From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores” (Isaiah 1:6).

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” (Jeremiah 6:16). This means that we must teach, believe and live by the doctrines of God’s book.

Gary J. Hall

### Church Mice



www.churchmice.net

### Conclusion

Salvation is found in no-one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

Rev. Frank Rowley

## God Is An Eyewitness

The final words of Jesus just before He ascended into heaven are a constant encouragement in my ministry and should be for every Christian.

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20).

It is great reassurance to remind ourselves, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (v.20).

However, that is not a new promise in the Scriptures. The Psalmist David reflected on that great truth about the LORD God in Psalm 139 when he wrote, “Where can I go from Thy Spirit?” Or where can I flee from Thy presence?” (v.7). I don’t think at that stage in his life he wanted to escape from God. He was thinking through the implications, and applying the omnipresence of God to his own life situations.

We are not alone in our circumstances. The Lord is with us all the time. The reason He sees and knows everything is because He is everywhere all the time. God will forever be with me. He is constantly aware of where I am and what I am doing. I am never out of His sight, and because I am never out of His sight, I am never out of His awareness. I am never “out of sight, out of mind.” Nothing in my life catches Him by surprise.

### It is exactly the same today

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who became the Living Word at Bethlehem and a dying Saviour at Calvary. He is our mighty and majestic mediator in the glory of heaven. We are saved by faith in our Lord Jesus and we are kept in his love by sovereign grace. This is the great teaching of the Scriptures. This is unalloyed Christianity.

### Time to trust and obey

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. . (John 3: 16-18)

Jesus Christ alone is the answer to our needs. He can save anyone and everyone and he can do it today. He is not to be argued with by modern man he does not run a debating group. He is not interested in intellectual prowess or status only in saving the lost from ruin beyond which there is no remedy.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17). Now Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. (Rev.3:20). For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8). Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

## Useful Quotes

To expound Scripture is to bring out of the text what is there, and to present it to the congregation. The opposite of exposition is imposition, which means to impose on the text what is not there. If we are going to be expository preachers, we will never be guilty of imposition.

Biblical preaching involves thinking God's thoughts and speaking God's words.

Either by chapter and verse, or else by principle and precept, the Bible speaks to matters which become community issues in our day and age. Through our exposition of the Word we must allow the Bible to speak to the issues of the day.

Indispensable to sound pastoral, biblical preaching is a visi-

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PTO



tation programme which brings us into regular contact with the members of our congregation.

The best safeguard against always preaching on our favourite subject or topic is to preach systematically through the Bible. In this way we will expound the Word and deal with topics and issues as they arise in the Scriptures.

Whatever our feelings are on planned preaching, we must bear in mind that our primary call as a pastor and preacher in a congregation is to build up and empower God's children for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12). We are not going to achieve this if there is no pattern or balance in our preaching.

If you want to preach with authority - do your homework.

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Liverpool  
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# The Big Issue

He Spoke - He Wrote

Behold, the LORD our God hath showed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth. (Deuteronomy 5:24)

## **Jesus loved the Commandments**

**H**e did not fall out over them he did not argue the point about them. He never annulled or cancelled any part of the code. They were written in dramatic circumstances on a mountain in Israel for the people of Israel and the nations of the world, Jesus accepted them as the clear loving directives for guidance for all men from his Father. The God of Israel, the God of glory and greatness. The Decalogue given by the Father was kept in every point, at every level by his Son. Jesus Christ the promised Messiah of Israel and Saviour of the World.

## **Moses was the chosen leader and mediator at that moment of history**

He dealt in rock solid truth. He was a mountain man of monumental stature. Moses loved the mystery and majesty of the Lord. He relayed that majesty and glory to the waiting people on the plains below the mountain. Because Moses on the high rock faced the fire and fury in faith, he enabled the people below to face the future in the knowledge of God's love and concern for each member of each tribe. He was their God! And he had chosen them in and through their obedience to Him to be His special chosen people. The Lord's Presence would be with them, He would walk with them. He would talk with them.